

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 521

By Henry

A RESOLUTION to recognize Fred Tucker, Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Veteran Affairs on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those citizens, who in their years of work, have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm and whose incomparable achievements have greatly benefited their communities and fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, our country was conceived by individuals willing to sacrifice their personal safety and concerns to ensure this nation's greatness, and the Volunteer State is especially proud to have so many valiant men and women who have served the United States of America with courage and gallantry; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Fred Tucker, Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Veteran Affairs, is most assuredly one such superlative person who is deserving of special recognition, as he has given unselfishly of himself, his time, and his talents to perpetuate the public good; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Fred Tucker has proudly served his country and the state of Tennessee for many years; and

WHEREAS, upon his graduation from high school, Mr. Tucker answered "Uncle Sam's" patriotic call to duty at the young age of 16, when he enlisted in the United States Marines; and

WHEREAS, during his tour of duty, Fred Tucker had the opportunity to visit 46 states of the United States, in addition to 36 countries, while also participating in combat in the Dominican Republic and two Vietnam tours; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Tucker enjoyed a distinguished career in the U.S. Marines; his varied assignments include: rifleman, machinegun operator, squad and platoon leader, administrator, marksmanship instructor, photojournalist, editor and operations officer; and

WHEREAS, commissioned to Da Nang, Vietnam in December of 1965, Mr. Tucker bravely served as a Public Affairs Officer at the base, brigade, division, wing, force, Department of Defense and NATO levels; and

WHEREAS, from 1972 – 1976, Fred Tucker shared his vast military knowledge and experience as a Marine Corps Representative and Senior Marine Instructor at Defense Information School; and

WHEREAS, after achieving the rank of Marine Major, Mr. Tucker retired from the U.S. Marines in 1977; and

WHEREAS, he has maintained an active civilian life, earning a Master's Degree in Communications at Western Kentucky University and teaching at the college level; and

WHEREAS, Fred Tucker has also enjoyed an accomplished professional career; and

WHEREAS, his strong work ethic enabled him to quickly climb the proverbial ladder of success; he rose through the ranks from salesman to Vice-President in the carpet industry and rendered astute service as the Director of Communications for the Metropolitan Nashville Airport Authority; and

WHEREAS, an accomplished public servant, Mr. Tucker began his illustrious career in veterans affairs in 1978; since then, he has achieved a sterling record and has ably served in the positions of Detachment and Department Commandant of the Marine Corps League, Department Public Relations Officer of The American Legion and President/Executive Director of the Tennessee Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program; and

WHEREAS, on January 21, 1995, Fred Tucker was appointed Commissioner of Veterans Affairs for the State of Tennessee by Governor Don Sundquist and was reappointed on January 16, 1999; and

WHEREAS, under his capable and noteworthy leadership, the Tennessee Department of Veterans Affairs has expanded its representation of veterans, increased the amount of compensation claims awarded, and enhanced relations with the United States Department of Veterans Affairs; and

WHEREAS, throughout his praiseworthy tenure, Mr. Tucker has taken an unparalleled proactive role in the welfare of this state's veterans by personally attending, or sending a representative to every veteran-related event at VA medical centers across the state; and

WHEREAS, highly respected in his field, Mr. Tucker has tirelessly traveled throughout the state of the Tennessee, speaking at service organization meetings, programs and other events involving veterans; and

WHEREAS, Fred Tucker exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that is characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments aside, Fred Tucker is most appreciative of the love and support he receives from his adoring wife, Deborah, his son, Ron, and his two stepdaughters, Shannon and Christina Hopkins; and

WHEREAS, Fred Tucker faithfully worships the Lord as an active and devout member of Madison Christian Church, where he serves with distinction as a deacon; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Tucker is an active and important part of veteran affairs in our state and nation, participating in numerous professional organizations, including proficient service as a Marine Corps League representative to the United Tennessee Veterans Association from 1980-1991 and as a member of the Secretary of the Navy Advisory Committee on Retired Personnel, in which position he had the great distinction of serving both in the Reagan and Bush administrations; he currently serves with acumen and alacrity as the Chairman of the Davidson County Veterans Coordinating Council; and

WHEREAS, he lends his stalwart support as a distinguished member of the Air Force Sergeants Association, The American Legion, AMVETS, Fleet Reserve Association, Marine Corps League, Marine Corps Mustang Association, Military Order of Devil Dogs, The Retired Officers Association, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and Vietnam Veterans of America; and

WHEREAS, Fred Tucker is a never-ending source of inspiration to those who know and cherish him and is tremendously admired by his friends and associates; and

WHEREAS, highly regarded as a professional and a friend, Fred Tucker has adhered to the common sense approach throughout his excellent service and has displayed the common touch in all endeavors, working well with people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, it is rare when a person of Mr. Tucker's stature walks among us; his brilliance shines down on us as he works assiduously to improving the quality of life for our veterans and their families; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Fred Tucker has demonstrated a remarkable ability to motivate others to reach their potential, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his peers and this General Assembly.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we extend to Mr. Fred Tucker our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement, salute him for his superlative service as Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Veterans Affairs and his extraordinary dedication to the great State of Tennessee, and wish him every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.